

distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. As shown below, amended claim 1, claims 2-5, and new claims 6-8 are not anticipated, taught, or suggested by any of the cited references.

Yoshirou was cited as disclosing a tapered shape at the bottom surface of a gasket, as in the edge adjacent to 4 in Fig. 1 of Yoshirou. It is respectfully submitted that the tapered slant claimed in claim 1 of the instant application is patentably distinct from protrusion 4 in Fig. 1 of Yoshirou.

First, protrusion 4 in Fig. 1 of Yoshirou is a *rounded* surface formed between the annular restriction (1) and the bottom surface of the gasket (5). Yoshirou discloses a *smooth radius* extending between the restriction area (1) and the bottom surface (5) of the gasket. The rounded protrusion (4) Yoshirou discloses at the end of the gasket away from the liquid (5) is the same as the rounded protrusion (3) Yoshirou discloses at the end of the gasket near the liquid (2).

In contrast to the gasket disclosed by Yoshirou, applicants' invention does not have a rounded protrusion at the bottom surface of the gasket, but rather has a tapered slant (10 in Fig. 2 of the application) extending between a peripheral side surface (7a) and the bottom surface (7c) of the gasket. Moreover, the tapered slant of applicants' invention extends from a peripheral side surface (7a) which has a *flat* portion for contacting the side wall of the syringe barrel (2).

The rounded protrusion (4) of Yoshirou is entirely absent in applicants' invention. Applicants' invention, on the other hand, includes a tapered slant providing a straight, angled surface between the peripheral side surface (7a) and the bottom surface (7c) of the gasket (7). Neither Yoshirou, nor any of the other art of record, discloses any such tapered slant.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to more clearly claim the invention of this application, including the tapered slant.

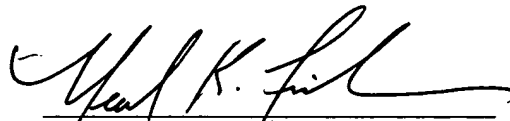
Claims 2-5 and new claims 6-8 depend from amended claim 1 and similarly claim subject matter not disclosed or suggested by any of the art of record.

Claims 2-8 depend from new claim 1, and are patentable based on their dependency.

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with the applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, or if the Examiner's action is other than allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Amended) A gasket for a pre-filled syringe into which liquid is charged, wherein a peripheral side surface of the gasket that is in contact with an inner surface of the syringe barrel is provided with a restriction, and wherein a periphery of a bottom surface of the gasket that is not in contact with the liquid is formed into a tapered [shape] slant, the tapered slant being defined by a first diameter of the gasket and a second diameter of the gasket, wherein the first diameter and the second diameter differ by between about 0.5 and about 5 mm.

APPENDIX B

NEW CLAIMS

6. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket has a diameter of between about 30 mm and about 35 mm.

7. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the gasket has a height of between about 15 mm and about 18 mm.

8. The gasket according to claim 1, wherein the first diameter and the second diameter differ by between about 1 mm and about 3 mm.